



# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

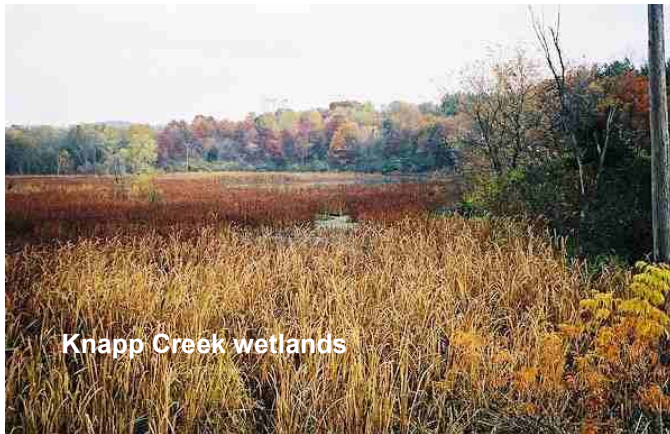
How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Richland County



### ***County characteristics***

- 589 sq. mi., population 17,924 (2000 census)
- Richland County is part of Wisconsin's "driftless area" (unglaciated) landscape of steep, wooded hills and valleys
- Waters: 490 miles of streams including 140 miles of trout water, nearly 200 acres of oxbows, sloughs, and flowages (mostly associated with Richland County's 26 miles of Wisconsin River)
- 3,764 licensed anglers and 3,142 hunters and trappers reside in Richland County



Knapp Creek wetlands

### ***State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing***

- 6,170 acres of land within the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway
- 1,385 acres of Fisheries Management Land

Our Wildlife and Fisheries lands are operated with license dollars. You can locate DNR properties for all your outdoor activities at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_land\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html)

### ***Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you***

1 Wildlife biologist, 1 Wildlife technician, 1 Fisheries

biologist, 1 Conservation Warden, 1 Lands and Facilities Technician

These staff members also serve portions of Grant and Iowa Counties

### ***Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars***

- Establish and maintain grassland and wetland habitat for ducks, pheasants, and other wildlife species on public as well as private lands.
- Established an aggressive CWD management program in southwest Wisconsin (Over 3,600 deer tested from Richland County since the discovery of CWD in Wisconsin in 2002).
- Conservation Wardens apprehended two subjects in the county who shot several deer, over 28 turkeys and more than 50 ruffed grouse while hunting at night and from the road. One of the subjects was apprehended a year later for shooting an 8 point buck from the road and tagging it with someone else's tag.
- Establish and maintain warm and coldwater habitat improvement projects on area smallmouth bass and trout streams.
- Monitor sportfisheries county-wide for stocking evaluations, population status, harvest recommendations, and habitat improvement.
- Manage DNR land by posting public hunting and access sites, as well as, building and maintaining parking areas.

- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, turkeys, quail, grouse, woodcock, deer, frogs, grassland birds, and eagles. Process over 13,000 Richland County registration records annually on deer, turkey, and furbearers.
- Respond to hundreds of wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus. Issue 25-30 permits or more/year to control deer damage.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups.

### ***Richland County Conservation Snapshots***

- 12 DNR license agents are supported
- 18 Hotline Complaints were received
- 5 waterway access sites available
- 6 Deer and Turkey registration stations set up to provide for 4 distinct seasonal registration needs



### ***Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary***

- 13,300 fish stocked into 16 streams. Species include brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout.
- An average 800 pheasants per year are stocked on Pine River Leased Public Hunting Area.
- Leased (pre-2003) 1,200 acres of Public Hunting Grounds (Pine River).

### ***County Success Stories***

- Richland County was the site of an early turkey reintroduction attempt in the late 1970's that utilized wild turkeys translocated from Missouri. So successful was this program that by 1989, the Richland County flock provided wild stock to relocate to other Wisconsin counties.
- 90% of the trout streams have obtained class I status. Number of class I brook trout streams has increased threefold. Brood stock for the southwest brook trout program come from Ash Creek.
- Conservation Wardens have been working with the Richland County Future Farmers of America and the Scenic Hills chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation to raise and release pheasants in Richland County.

### ***Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities***

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management